
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

This meeting was aired live and taped for local television.

PRESENT: Leo Janssens II, Chair, Duncan Phyfe, Member, Kyle Johnson, new member, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator, and Sylvia Turcotte, Executive Assistant.

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

Leo Janssens called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leo Janssens welcomed Kyle Johnson as the new member of the Board of Selectmen. **A motion was made by Leo Janssens to nominate Duncan Phyfe as the Chair and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Duncan Phyfe to nominate Kyle Johnson as the Clerk and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

III. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minutes limit) None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leo Janssens made the motion to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

V. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. 250th Committee Members – Discussion on June 6th Event

George Cornwall and Tyna Donelson were present. George Cornwall began by stating that there were three time capsules which have been under the care of the Town Clerk for the past 100 years. Tyna Donelson gave a brief history on the time capsules stating that the Hoffman box is under Cushing's care and the Eisenlohr boxes contained items to be dispersed. She also noted that the Eisenlohr family members were coming for this event. She noted that the Hoffman box was buried at Cushing and in 1915, once it was dug up the contents was unrecognizable as the box wasn't sealed properly. George Cornwall stated that prior to the event they will open the two remaining boxes in order to save time. He stated that Bill Eisenlohr is coming from Montana with around 40 to 50 family members. He added that Mr. Eisenlohr is requesting a box which is a reasonable request. Tyna Donelson noted that they want the approval of the Board of Selectmen to give him a box as there is no evidence of ownership. Doug Briggs stated that he suggested a motion by the Board of Selectmen. **Kyle Johnson stated that there was no real value to the Town keeping the box and he made the motion to transfer to Mr. Eisenlohr one box, based on the quality of the box, and Leo Janssens seconded. Motion carried.**

George Cornwall noted that in the Proclamation to be read by Senator Gobi at the event, stated that June 6th every year would be designated Eisenlohr/Hoffman Day in Ashburnham.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Results of Town Election held on Tuesday, April 28th

Duncan Phyfe stated that the results would be read by Kyle Johnson as Clerk:

Mr. Johnson read as follows:

Moderator – Ronald W. Reed

Board of Selectmen (3 year term) – Leo Janssens II

Board of Selectmen (1 year term) – Kyle Johnson

Board of Health (3 year term) – Thomas J. Flanagan

Board of Health (3 year term) – Francis J. McLaughlin

Planning Board (5 year term) – Joseph Kalagher

Library Trustees (3 year term) – Margaret L. Whitney

Library Trustees (3 year term) – Candace L. Wright

Municipal Light Board (3 year term) – Sarah Davis

School Committee Member, Ashburnham – Keith Glenn

School Committee Member, Westminster – Jeffrey Boudreau

B. Review of the Ecumenical Service that was held on Sunday, April 12th

It was noted that the service went well but that no Selectman had attended.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Selectman to speak at Memorial Day Services

It was discussed and decided that the new member of the Board, Kyle Johnson, would speak at the Memorial Day Services on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

B. Vote on MassDEP Administrative Consent Order

Doug Briggs explained that for the last 10 years the Town has exceeded our allotted amount of water. In 2012 and 2013 the Town had a lot of water breaks and with the new water tank, even more breaks occurred due to additional pressure. He stated that with the grant of \$2m from USDA to get the water lines replaced our water use is dropping down to 300,000 gallons which is where we want it to be. He noted that the consent order basically says we are agreeing to the facts and corrective actions to be done.

Mr. Briggs stated that the water ban in place is not of our creation. The DEP mandated this. He did state that there hasn't been much communication with the State but the DEP has scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, June 3rd with him, the Water Commission and the DPW and once we show them what we've done it will be corrected. Kyle Johnson questioned some sections in the Consent Order such as Section 3 which Mr. Briggs stated these items were already performed, Section 13 which Mr. Briggs stated was gone and Section 20 which was the \$100 a day penalty that Mr. Briggs said was also gone.

Doug Briggs stated that Section 8 was the important part which lists five items that need to be addressed.

Leo Janssens questioned why they dictate our use and Mr. Briggs replied that they have to monitor the pond level and that the DEP is the regulator of the laws. He noted that our hope is that after the meeting where we can show them what we've done, that the water use will be monitored by the "odd and even" system. Kyle Johnson asked about other towns and if they had similar bans and Mr. Briggs stated that they did but for different reasons.

Kyle Johnson made the motion to sign as provided and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Unanimous in favor.

VIII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Doug Briggs began his report by noting that there was \$600k remaining in the water line replacement project and we were given the okay to spend these extra funds on roads. We are also spending the remainder of the pothole funds and the left over money from the Special Town Meeting designated for the roads. He noted the roads being done were Williams, Pillsbury, Marble, Holden Street, South Maple Avenue, Turnpike, Crosby and in the summer with Chapter 90 funds River Styx and Russell Hill. He also noted that we didn't get what was promised in Chapter 90 funds from the State. Leo Janssens inquired about Route 101 and Mr. Briggs stated that we are on the TIP for 2017 but we had to spend \$120k to do the engineering study before they would solidify us on the list. He noted that Gardner Hill would probably have to be done before 2017 but then from the Hill to Willard Road would be done by the TIP and from Willard to the center would be done with our funds.

Mr. Briggs stated that our new Treasurer Kate Stacy started today and should work out well. He also wanted to thank Paul Pollastri for his dedicated service for the past three years.

He noted that the Board needs to approve an extension, rollover in the amount of \$560k as the note is coming due on May 14th. He stated that we have been assured that we will get our reimbursement from MSBA in June but if this doesn't happen we need to have these funds available. If we don't then we would have to cover the deficit with either free cash or stabilization funds as we have been informed by Tony Rassias from the Bureau of Accounts that we will not be allowed to borrow past the June 30th date. Kyle Johnson inquired if this delay was the Town's fault and Mr. Briggs stated that it was not. He also noted that it looks good for June 3rd. ***Leo Janssens motioned to sign the borrowing paperwork and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.***

Mr. Briggs stated that Guardian Information Technologies has started the installation of a T1 line for our phone lines and that this will interconnect all town buildings and will allow for enhanced capabilities and eliminate many phone lines. The Public Safety Building will be the center of operations not the Town Hall.

He reminded everyone that the Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Oakmont in the auditorium. He noted that there were only 16 articles.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 6, 2015 Minutes – Regular Meeting ***Leo Janssens motioned to approve the minutes of April 6, 2015 and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.***

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE None

X. MAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS – Kyle Johnson read the following:

- Thursday, 5/7 – 6:30 p.m. – Planning Board – Lower Level – Town Hall
- Tuesday, 5/12 – 6:00 p.m. – Water/Sewer Commission – Lower Level – Town Hall
- Wednesday, 5/13 – 5:00 p.m. – Bd. of Assessors – Assessors Office – Town Hall
- Thursday, 5/14 – 7:15 p.m. – Parks & Recreation Comm. – Lower Level – Town Hall

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Kyle Johnson read the following:

Town Clerk Reminders:

- January 1st and on – Open registration of voters at the Town Hall, Town Clerk’s office, 32 Main Street, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday thru Thursday.
- May 5th, Tuesday –Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium, 9 Oakmont Drive.
- Dog Licenses are now available at the Town Clerk’s office. Fees are \$10.00 for altered dogs and \$15.00 for unaltered dogs. Please bring in current rabies certificate. If licensing by mail, please include check, rabies certificate and a self-addressed envelope and mail to Town Clerk’s Office, 32 Main Street, Ashburnham. Also, online payments can be made for dog licenses RENEWALS ONLY. Please call the Town Clerk’s office FIRST at 978-827-4100 ext. 3 to verify that a valid rabies certificate is on file, complete the information online and the dog license will be mailed.

Senator Anne Gobi’s Legislative Aide, Tyler Wolanin, will hold office hours on Wednesday, May 27th at 11:30 a.m. in the Center Room at the Town Hall.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit) None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 p.m. Leo Janssens motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Executive Assistant